

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
/064 W

-----040230 181459Z /44 42

R 171721Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9604
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0378

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR TS ELAB
SUBJECT: TALK WITH IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO REP

REF: BRUSSELS 00903

1. A FEW HOURS AFTER READING REF BRUSSELS TEL REPORTING
PRESENCE OF AFL-CIO REP IRVING BROWN AT BRUSSELS TALKS
BETWEEN HABIB ACHOUR, HEAD OF UGTT, AND OTTO KERSTEN,
ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, I HAD A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BROWN
IN PARIS WHERE HE HAD ARRIVED IN COMPANY WITH ACHOUR ON
TRAIN TRIP FROM BRUSSELS.

2. BROWN THANKED ME FOR MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO KEEP
HIM INFORMED OF CURRENT TUNISIAN SCENE AND WANTED ME TO
KNOW THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO VISIT TUNISIA AT THIS TIME.
AFTER VISIT HERE OF KERSTEN NEXT WEEK HE WOULD REASSESS HIS
ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF A TRIP BY HIMSELF TO TUNIS. IF
HE FELT HE COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE HE WOULD COME DOWN.

3. BROWN BELIEVES GOT HAS BEEN MISREPRESENTING
ACHOUR'S REAL VIEWS IN RECENT DIATRIBES AND NEED
HAVE NO FEAR FOR ACHOUR'S TRYING TO SET UP A NEW
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POLITICAL PARTY TO OPPOSE THE PSD. HE AND KERSTEN
SAW AMPLE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE AND KERSTEN WOULD BE
COMING TO TUNIS IN HOPES OF HELPING BRIDGE THE GAP.
BROWN ADDED THAT HE STILL HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE GOOD
SENSE OF PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA, BUT LESS IN THE
WISDOM OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE CURRENTLY ADVISING NOUIRA.

4. BROWN ALSO TOLD ME HE HAD HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE RECENT UGTT NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE (TUNIS 0220) AND HE HAD TOLD ACHOUR THE DRAFTERS MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN MARXISTS. HE HAD WARNED ACHOUR AGAINST TAKING THE ADVICE OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEY WOULD KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO PROFIT FROM TUNISIA'S CURRENT DISARRAY. BROWN SAID HE BELIEVES EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE UGTT IN THE FREE-WORLD (ICFTU) CAMP AND THE GOT MUST AVOID TAKING MEASURES WHICH WOULD WEAKEN THE UGTT.

5. I TOLD BROWN I CONCURRED IN HIS DECISION NOT TO VISIT TUNISIA AT THIS JUNCTURE AND PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF THE LOCAL SCENE. I OBTAINED HIS PROMISE TO LET ME KNOW AHEAD OF TIME IF HE DECIDES TO COME FOR A VISIT.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS00378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780026-1131
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780153/aaaabshi.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dfbecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 903
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3759214
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO REP
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, TS, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dfbecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014